

ASHTON-upon-MERSEY URBAN AUTHORITY

YEAR 1908.

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Medical Officer of Health - CHARLES J. RENSHAW, M.D.

Population Census 1901 - 5,563.

Estimated population middle 1908 - 6,300.

Area in acres - 1,622.

Death Rate per 1,000 living persons - 13.4

Death rate from Seven principal Zymotic diseases - 2.06.

Deaths under one year per 1,000 births 17. Rate 96.

The health of Ashton-on-Mersey during 1908 has been good. The population numbers 6,300; from all causes there have been 93 deaths, the rate being 13.4 per thousand people as compared with 12 in 1907 and 12.4 in 1906, or an average of 12 in the past 10 years.

There have been 17 deaths of children under twelve months of age, more than as previously owing to diarrhoea after Whooping Cough and Measles in the Spring.

The Birth rate is 27.9 as compared with 22.4 in 1907 and 21.7 in 1906, or an average of 23 in the past 10 years.



The infectious diseases notified are -

Diphtheria . . .	2 cases
Enteric fevers . . .	1 "
Scarlet fever . . .	20 "
Whooping Cough . . .	74 "
Measles . . .	72 "
Erysipelas . . .	3 "

On Feb. 10. owing to an epidemic of Measles, it was necessary to close the Schools of St. Mary Magdalene in February and in October the Infant Schools of St. Martin's, owing to an epidemic of Whooping Cough amongst the Infants attending them.

The question of the enlargement of the drainage beds at Ashton has lately been considered by the Local Board: the beds some thirty years ago were made for a population of about 2,000 persons, the population is now over 6,000, and is increasing, so it is evident more room for precipitation of the drainage is required or another system adopted, the latter being of much greater expense.

The Ventilation shafts of the drains are acting very well and are much better than the Ventilation on the road level. The cages for waste paper are in constant use and must lessen nuisances.



The rain of the past year has been of much use in keeping down dust and flies, both of which are causes of infectious disease as well as being disagreeable.

The water supply from the Cheshire Water Co., is good in quantity and quality.

The milk supplied in the neighbourhood is healthy and of good quality. The Cow Sheds have been inspected and the attention of the occupiers called to defects in three cases which are receiving attention.

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39 Plans have been approved by the Council during the past year, and amongst them have been plans for 111 Houses, out of which 26 have been completed, but the total number of houses certified for habitation during the year is 58. 25 Houses are now in course of erection.

The following is a list of the most important sanitary improvements carried out to property during the year:-

Privies converted into W.C's . . . . .	3
Houses redrained . . . . .	4
Stopped up drains attended to . . . . .	11
Drains removed from Cellars . . . . .	4

Three old Cottages have been closed and pulled down during the year.



Negociations are still pending for the sanitary improvement of certain Cottage property in the district, and all other similar property will be inspected and reported upon during the coming year.

The provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, have been duly observed, and nothing has been found for complaint.

The Slaughterhouses are kept in clean condition.

